

# Nation



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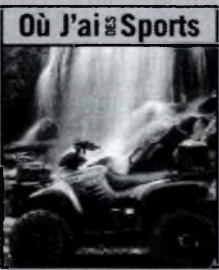
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## You Gotta Wonder

Let me see, Minster Nault of Indian Affairs puts a little Indian Band into third party management but that's because it has problems, not because he's getting back at them for criticizing his administration. And recently Indian Affairs denied that the \$5 million that they cut to the Assembly of First Nations budget wasn't due to their opposition to changes in the Indian Act. The Department of Indian Affairs have also denied that they were the ones to send a fax containing a resolution calling for the resignation of the National Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come. The two chiefs who are named as the first and seconder have denied having anything to do with the resolution.

Chiefs from across Canada told the Federal Government they would bring Canada to a standstill if they continued consultations over "governance." Indian Affairs Minster Nault and National grand Chief Coon Come sat down and talked. Indian Affairs suspended the consultations for a 30-day cooling down period in which the AFN has to come up with some type of plan of action. Wasn't the whole thing about too fast, too loose and whatever happened to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People's Report?

Suicides on Indian Reserves in northern Ontario may surpass records. Nishnawbe-Aski Grand Chief Stan Bready pointed out that 28 of last year's suicides were in the Minster's riding.

Department of Fisheries and Ocean's crying foul over a movie the Mi'kmaq people are showing around the world saying the beatings of Native fisheries was the "minimum

force" they could use during the situations. One man was reportedly hit 20 times by one Officer because he was allegedly choking another officer. The video is called "Who Will Sing For Us?" and can be found on the internet. It received 1,400 hits within the first 24 hours.

I recall someone saying the Supreme Court of Canada isn't as friendly towards Natives as it once was. There was even the discussion of a decision being seen as political rather the Rule of Law.

The Saskatchewan Justice Department has decided not to lay charges in the case of a young Native who froze to death. A witness saw that young man pushed into a police cruiser. The same police force was accused of dropping off a young Native man, who survived despite having his winter coat taken away from him. The RCMP are still investigating two more deaths.

The Federal Government is asking the U.S. to take it easy or exempt Quebec from the Soft Lumber Agreement fight. Doesn't Quebec account for 11% of the world's newsprint market making them third in the world? Aren't they cutting trees in Eeyou Istchee in violation of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement?

In North America someone has said that being a settler was risky business. These days it feels like payback time. And in it all I think of the cyclic patterns of violence. For a while people have a love for all things Native and then it changes. Are those changes upon us? You gotta wonder.

by Will Nicholls

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### ON THE COVER

Eeyou Istchee  
Photographer: Will Nicholls  
Cover Design: Mona Laviolette



## Action plan

I've read the news and seen it a bit on television. We are prepared to block all roads if necessary; to halt whatever is wrong or bad until we see something in the line of positive action. It's really using a negative action against a negative action to produce a positive action or result. Self-government or else. I really think that all these actions are really not getting anywhere near what we want, which is the right and power to govern ourselves as sovereign nations.

For example, when Hitler wanted to take over the world, he had an action plan. Mind you, his actions were evil in design and he nearly accomplished his goal of world domination but what he had failed to do was to study the mechanics of change upon society, when he decided that he was going to take over the world.

What we should do is have the same type of plan geared towards self-government with a change mechanism installed, so that when resistance to change occurs (which is inevitable) we would already have a plan to counter that resistance and provide knowledge, hope, truth and to have plenty of patience until our counter-action provided a positive result.

We say we need self-government and strive to do so and yet we do not have a change mechanism installed within that plan (if there is a plan, what is it?). A change mechanism would be beneficial and ease the discomforts that will accompany the road to self-government. As with any proposed change, we will meet resistance from all parties, even from our own people and especially from others. I've learned that the change for even the better is paved with misfortune, inaptitude, apathy, ignorance and vanity, and things will be much worse before they get better. Preparing for change is a long-term plan, a plan that struck me like a lightning bolt from heaven, when I went to our local child nursery with my two year old.

I was greeted with smiles and was invited to draw an outline of my baby on

a large piece of paper with lots of paint in many colors. Later, I walked along the walls that were covered with baby pictures and posters and I admired those pictures that depicted such happiness. Then I saw a poster with a small baby nestled in the hands of an adult and the caption read: "There's a whole world in your hands" and I thought that there was something wrong with the saying and the message behind the picture. It meant that the future of that child rested in my hands. Then I realized that their future is not in my hands, but my future is in their tiny hands.

Their hands will grow and their minds will learn how to govern us and care for us when we are old and gray. We do not have the capacity to govern ourselves, but the children will and do. To teach them well is a good counter-action that will lead to positive results.

Be an example, good or bad, and show them what their future will look like if they learn positive values and practice them; this would be another counter-action that would yield positive results.

Do not limit their view of the world so that they will only see one (our) world, but show them as much of the world as possible using any means, so that their perspective will be in tune with our aspirations.

Create a sense of value and well being while balancing the road at the same time. Although the way of the road may seem to be crude and cruel, believe me, there are crueler and less compassionate methods such as child abuse, poor education, child neglect, starvation and lack of proper guidance (which seems to be a growing concern in many of our communities) and the worst cruelty of all, lack of love and respect for our little ones.

All these actions will result in a positive environment, an environment where self-government can become a reality, but the road to where we are heading cannot be blocked with our own lack of vision. We must have our change for the better mechanism installed within our children so that they will be prepared to take on the roadblocks of the future.

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## 30 Days To Chill Out

The Assembly of First Nations and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development have agreed to 30-day "cooling-off" period during which the government will suspend consultations on changes to the Indian Act.

The month-long time-out comes in the wake of last month's Halifax assembly, where roadblocks were threatened should the government fail to respond to an AFN-initiated proposal within 30 days. Minister of Indian Affairs Robert Nault and National Chief Matthew Coon Come had a one-hour meeting in Ottawa on July 31. "We have agreed for the sake of our relationship, and to give time for the work plan to be put together, that we'll have a 30-day cooling-off period," Nault said after the meeting. "Everyone's going to down tools for 30 days, take a little bit of a break, relax a little bit."

Coon Come talked about the AFN working to develop a strategy for the government to consider in its push to revamp the Indian Act. "We'll continue to work on that and see where we're going, and I believe we'll find a solution, we'll find a way," Coon Come said. The government's First Nations governance initiative, a \$13 million consultation process, has been roundly criticized by Native leaders for placing the power for change squarely in the hands of the government. Some groups have participated in the process, but the AFN, representing some 600 First Nations across Canada, has boycotted discussions and has asked all Native groups to do the same. Native leaders are seeking to establish a Native-led plan to reform relations between First Nations and the federal government. "We'll allow our people to develop that work plan, we will consult our members and tell them what's going on and then we'll work from there," Coon Come said.

Brian Zelnicker

cont on page 9



## TELEBEC PROPOSES RATE HIKES

A recent public document obtained by the Nation contains proposed rate increases for basic phone service in the James Bay region. The document, dated July 6, 2001, was submitted to the CRTC by Telebec. The phone company has proposed rate increases to take place over the next two years for basic residential phone service in Cree territory.

The current base service for 2001 is \$26.93 a month. Telebec is seeking an increase to \$31.10 for 2002, followed by an additional increase to \$34.43 for 2003. These rates apply to the most basic service and don't include additional service charges. Another \$4.95 would have to be averaged out for popular services such as touch-tone, call-waiting and voice mail.

Though the rate increase proposals have been officially submitted to the CRTC, they have not yet been approved. Some of the issues involved in northern phone service include operating in a high-cost service area, opening the doors to competition, implementing competition, and establishing a price cap.

Since James Bay is a high-cost area, Telebec has sought subsidies in the past to allow it to remain competitive in the marketplace. Subsidies were not approved, but previous rate increases have been. Telebec has also gone on record as not being opposed to competition in the region, though this position is not so clear in areas north of Nemaska. Since Telebec isn't against competition, and there is nobody else to oppose it, it is felt that the CRTC will allow it to happen.

If competition does open up in the area, as it is expected to, Telebec proposes the rate increases as a commercial necessity

in the changing telecommunications market. The implementation of competition will involve the establishment of a set of fees for anyone seeking to move into the territory.

"Telebec is very open to competition," said company representative Norm Kelly. "Any competitor can go anywhere in the area right now." According to Kelly, Telebec faces no competition in the north due to the high cost of operating in remote areas. "Competition will go places where there is dense population," said Kelly. "The cost of doing business in the north is high."

Telebec feels it has no choice but to raise rates in order to bring all the customers in their territory up to par, in compliance with CRTC regulations.

The issue of a rate price cap has been raised. Apparently Telebec wanted to establish a cap somewhere around \$42, while Chisasibi Telecommunications and the Cree Nation of Chisasibi sought to set the cap no higher than \$28. An unofficial amount of \$34.75 has been suggested as a compromise, but this has not been announced by either party or the CRTC, who have to rule on this, and the question of a price cap is an ongoing issue. Telebec officials had no immediate information at hand about possible price ceilings.

"Price Cap is basically a nice way of saying rate increase," said Jean Sebastien of Action Réseau Consommateurs, a consumer advocacy group. "The point is not so much that the prices are capped,





The Cree Construction and Development Company Ltd

## XXX JOB OPPORTUNITY XXX

**Position: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER**

**Reference: 15-10-002**

**Location: MISTISSINI**

The Cree Construction & Development Company Ltd (CCDC) is presently seeking a Human Resources Officer for its head office in Mistissini.

The Human Resources Officer is involved in several administrative tasks including training programs, personnel hiring, labor relations, statistical analysis, payroll processing and accounts payable.

Under the supervision of the Senior Human Resources Officer, the incumbent participates in the general management of the administration office and, in accordance with the regulations, laws and applicable policies, he gives his support and his advice to the administrative team.

The candidate must be flexible in terms of travelling occasionally.

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In addition to self-sufficiency, good communication skills and leadership, the incumbent should have the following knowledge:

- College or university degree in industrial relations or in administration, though specific experience in the management of human resources field may be considered sufficient;
- Experience (2-5yrs) in the management of human resources in a multi-cultural environment;
- Pertinent experience in the construction industry is an asset;
- Good knowledge of word processing software ( Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access);
- Good knowledge of English and French (spoken, written) is essential;
- Knowledge of Cree language is a definite asset.

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## LETTERS

### A Personal Journey

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2001 I went on a ten-day journey with a group to Waposite and back to Ouje-Bougoumou by snowshoes and dog sled teams. The morning dawned clear and sunny as I anxiously got my gear ready for the journey. I thought how this journey would be different from the Journey Through the Heart as we started to walk through untouched wilderness. But it was a wonderful experience to walk on our ancestors' trap lines.

When I began taking steps on my snowshoes, I knew how this journey was going to be a great experience walking with the elders. Our leaders Charlie Bosum and David Bosum who had been raised by their parents as young boys on the land had much experience with the traditional way of late parents once survived from, my mind began to fill with memories. I knew then how my healing would take place again during this journey. My tears began to fall as I walked with my snowshoes on my late parent's trap line. I heard a voice whisper, "walk and be strong". "You will succeed and your journey will be just like your ancestors". A warm feeling came over my body, as I heard the voice tell me I would make it to those beautiful woodlands. I paused for a while to let the tears fall again. I knew at that moment I was not alone, that there is Someone out there who cares about our experiences. I cannot even begin to describe the feeling of being this close to nature in this vast land of beauty, only that this is where I felt whole. I thank the Lord for this beautiful journey for I believe that healing should take place in the bush. I believe that healing begins while sleeping on those fresh spruce boughs and through the sound and aroma of crackling firewood because this is where we came from.

At one time during our journey I remember my brother David advising me "If you want to walk fast, concentrate on the trail and do not talk while walking." Later on, I heard David and Charlie telling each other stories and laughing away as we were walking. Joining in their laughter, I asked what had become of our leaders.

Beads of cleansing snow gently rained upon our path as we got close to home. I let tears of joy fall from my face once again. Up ahead, the local crowd was waiting to welcome us home and to offer support as our journey came to an end.

My deep appreciation for Charlie and David's teachings on this journey and to the other participants who made it feel like we were one family. I would also like to thank all the people that supported us on this journey.

**Suzanne Bosum Bush**  
Ouje-Bougoumou





## WORLD RACISM CONFERENCE

South Africa will be hosting the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance at the end of this month. The theme of the conference, scheduled to run from August 31 to September 7 in the city of Durban, is "United to Combat Racism: Equality, Dignity, Justice."

The nation that was once vilified for its official policy of apartheid will now provide a fitting locale for an international gathering that seeks to address the persistent global problem of discrimination based on race and culture. A recent Reuters news agency article billed the conference as "a turning point in the international fight against racism." The Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF) sees the upcoming conference as "a particularly important stage for Indigenous Peoples to highlight the real situation with respect to racism in Canada." The CRRF also sees the event as an opportunity for Aboriginal peoples from around the world to band together in an effort to thwart governments who seek to remove the right to self-determination in the United Nations Draft Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Though Canada enjoys a stellar reputation in the international community for being one of the most humane places in the world to live, there are still many issues to be addressed within our borders and the record of the Canadian government is far from unblemished. Though the United Nations Human Development Index ranks Canada number one in the world, the Native population would be ranked 63rd in the world - on par with countries like Bulgaria and Lebanon in terms of socio-economic conditions. As recently as 1999, the United Nations Human Rights Committee recognized the situation of Native people as "one of the most pressing issues facing Canadians."

The residential school system is but one glaring example of how racism was inherent in Canada's history

and persists in Canada's present. Though the cases have become so celebrated over recent years, and though there remains no doubt as to the harm inflicted on the Native population by the policies of the involved churches, compensation issues continue to be dragged slowly through the court system. Though some might highlight the fact that the truth is coming out and that this should be taken as a positive sign on the road to healing old wounds, others can simply point out the differences in how these cases get settled.

For example, in a similar case involving the Mount Cashel orphanage in Newfoundland, where members of the Catholic church were found guilty of physical and sexual abuse, white victims have been compensated in amounts that far exceed what Natives can expect from a court settlement.

One angle of defense on a point such as has been that the number of Natives due to receive compensation far outstrips the numbers of affected white victims in cases such as Mount Cashel, thus Natives can't reasonably expect to be similarly compensated since the financial means is simply not there. Churches have been pleading financial difficulties, with some claiming to be on the verge of bankruptcy. That more Native people were subjected to systemic abuse at the hands of organized churches is but further evidence of a double standard at practice here.

The Durban conference will be one to take note of. Native people in Canada, who face higher rates of incarceration, welfare, and suicide than their white neighbours, can only hope to narrow that gap between first place and sixty-third. It is not unreasonable to want to enjoy first world status in a first world country.

by Brian Zelnicker

## FLEURY ON THE MEND

-Brian Zelnicker

Theo Fleury has issued his first public comments since taking a sudden leave from the New York Rangers last February to check himself into a rehab program. The 5-foot-6-inch all-star winger, who is known for playing like he's 6-foot-5, is now on the road to recovery after months of treatment for substance abuse. Fleury, a Metis from Oxbow, Saskatchewan, has struggled with substance abuse for years. Both of his parents have had their own problems with addiction.

The world of hockey was especially stunned by Fleury's self-imposed departure from the ice last season since he appeared to be at the top of his game. The fiery winger was leading his team with 30 goals and 44 assists and was duelling with Colorado's Joe Sakic for the overall league lead in points. Somehow, the 13-year veteran who broke in with the Calgary Flames, where he played for 10 seasons, managed to keep his off-ice problems separate from his on-ice performance.

Fleury's recent comments were made in Calgary before his annual golf tournament. The tournament raises money for research into Crohn's Disease, a debilitating digestive disorder that affects Fleury and millions of others like him. "The hockey rink has always been my happy place and my place where I felt really comfortable," said Fleury. "I always felt joy, I always felt happiness, I always felt complete when I was on the ice."

Fleury claimed he's never felt better physically and is raring to get back on the ice for training camp. Rangers general manager Glen Sather sat with Fleury at the press conference. The former Oilers guru has overseen the rehabilitation of several of his players in the past, including Craig MacTavish. While Sather was proud of his player's comeback so far, he also had words of caution. "This is not something where you spend four or five months changing your lifestyle," said Sather. "He's going to have to fight until someone sticks him in the ground 50 years from now."

"There was never a thought in my mind that I would not come back," Fleury said. He now awaits word to find out if he'll be invited by his friend Wayne Gretzky to an orientation camp for the Canadian Olympic team in early September.



# 1<sup>st</sup> Traditional

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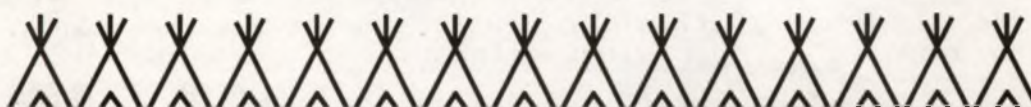
# Pow Wow



Montreal, Québec "The Nation" and "The Eastern Door", two aboriginal newspapers are proud to invite the general public to our 1<sup>st</sup> Traditional Pow Wow, on **September 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2001**. The Pow Wow will be held at the Bonsecours Island in the Old Port of Montreal. It will be held from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm **Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**, and from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm **Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**. The Pow Wow is a celebration for everyone to enjoy. It will feature dance, song, traditional fashions, family entertainment, arts, and food. There is also an arts and crafts market, children's activities, and demonstrating artists throughout the day. Visitors are strongly encouraged to participate in this peaceful and entertaining gathering. The Pow Wow provides an opportunity for local and tourist clientele to get to know Aboriginal nations through cultural and educational programming. Please join us in our grand event by celebrating traditions, pride and friendship.

Those interested in volunteering, dancing or performing, selling arts and crafts or food vending please contact Danielle at 514-272-3077 or e-mail us at [montrealpowwow@yahoo.com](mailto:montrealpowwow@yahoo.com)

  
LE VIEUX-PORT  
DE MONTRÉAL





but that productivity gains can be put in their pockets and distributed to shareholders." Sebastien points out that since a price cap forces the phone company to operate under certain restrictions, they are then less accountable to the CRTC for how their profits are managed. Price caps are not etched in stone and can be adjusted to keep pace with factors such as inflation.

"We were opposed to any increase in rates without a corresponding increase in service," said Hyman Glustein, representing Chisasibi

Telecommunications. Glustein made it clear that negotiating a price cap was not the main priority of the Cree group, who seek to oppose any rise in rates without an improvement in the service offered. Though the decision has not yet been rendered, there would be little surprise if the CRTC agreed to the proposed rate increases. "In cases involving phone companies," added Glustein, "the consumer almost never wins." A final CRTC decision on the proposed rate hikes is not expected before January, 2002.

## UASHAT-MALIOTENAM BAND ELECTION UPROAR

It was a close election with Chief Rosario Pinette defeating Elie Jaques with only 33 votes on July 31, 2001. The vote was contested and violence erupted in the community.

Two nights in a row seen what police called alcohol fueled rampages. Estimated damages to band buildings and businesses totaled about \$250,000.

To date, a total of six people have been arrested by the Native police force. The Native police have asked that municipal

police from nearby Sept. Illes, the Surrete du Quebec, and a riot squad from Quebec be put on stand-by should tensions rise again.

Election protestors smashed the windows of the Band Office, vandalized the school, and a health office in the first night alone.

## Let us know:

Is there a powwow, gathering, festival, tournament or other community event that you want people to know about?

Is there something that the company or organization that you work for is doing that should be noticed by others?

Is there someone in your community like an Elder or other role model that you think deserves to be recognized?

What issues (local, national, and international) do you think aren't getting the press they deserve?

Do you have a story that would make people laugh?

Call the Nation at  
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Ask for Will,  
Brian B. or Brian Z.

\*\*Confidentiality assured\*\*

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# Survival of the Fittest

## The Cree Nation Fitness Challenge

*Will Nicholls*  
*Photos by Denny Dannrath*

Every year the Cree community of Nemaska hosts on the Cree Nation Fitness Challenge. This is the third year they have done so and Crees come from all over Eeyou Istchee to take part in this health lifestyle event. It is a grueling challenge and is seen as the place in the Cree territory to prove yourself no matter what sex you are. Congratulations to all those who entered. This year saw four categories. The Womens Recreational, the Men's Recreational, the Women's Competitive and the Men's Competitive. Below are the final results.

Note: all bold numbers indicate the best individual time for that particular part of the Challenge.

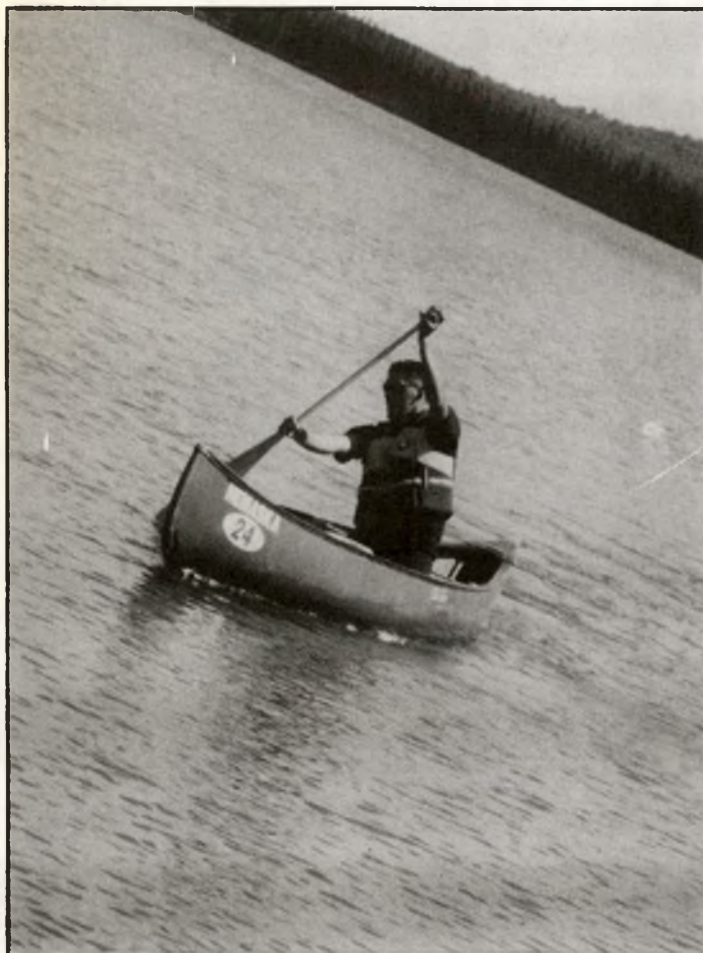
### Final Results- Women's Recreational

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Hilda Mianscum: swimming **11:54**, cycling **15:12**, portage **4:35**, canoeing **7:02**, run **20:18** for a total time of 1:11:31.
- 2nd place Sandra Coonishish: swimming 19:33, cycling 18:43, portage 4:64, canoeing 7:18, run 46:11 for a total time of 1:41:24.
- 3rd place Annie Weistche: swimming 29:45, cycling 22:30, portage 4:44, canoeing 11:42, run 38:37 for a total time of 1:48:57.
- 4th place Sharon Cheezo: swimming 33:59, cycling 25:52, portage 4:59, canoeing 8:07, run 1:11:29 for a total time of 2:26:20



### Final Results- Men's Recreational

- 1st place Jimmy Matoush: swimming 15:26, cycling **17:10**, portage 8:47, canoeing 15:11, run **24:36** for a total time of 1:29:59.
- 2nd place Rod Blueboy: swimming 10:12, cycling 20:13, portage 9:17, canoeing 14:17, run 33:43 for a total time of 1:30:01.
- 3rd place George Blacksmith: swimming 11:15, cycling 18:35, portage 8:47, canoeing 14:03, run 37:11 for a total time of 1:32:17.
- 4th place James Neesposh: swimming 11:22, cycling 20:10, portage 8:16, canoeing 14:31, run 1:38:49 for a total time of 1:35:46.
- 5th place Gerald Coon Come: swimming 12:41, cycling 20:11, portage 9:17, canoeing 17:44, run 34:14 for a total time of 1:37:22.
- 6th place Jimmy P. Coon Come: swimming 13:21, cycling 18:20, portage 9:07, canoeing 40:39, run 46:11 for a total time of 1:41:24.
- 7th place Adam Voyager: swimming 11:20, cycling 20:00, portage 10:02, canoeing 15:06, run 38:43 for a total time of 1:40:05.
- 8th place Lawrence Jolly: swimming 16:04, cycling 20:19, portage 9:20, canoeing 14:16, run 39:33 for a total time of 1:42:38.
- 9th place Calvin Hester: swimming 10:08, cycling 21:34, portage 9:21, canoeing 14:48, run 38:58 for a total time of 1:45:39.
- 10th place Howard Matoush: swimming 15:31, cycling 21:29, portage 9:23, canoeing 16:11, run 38:04 for a total time of 1:46:15.
- 11th place Clarence Loon: swimming 24:30, cycling 21:28, portage 8:17, canoeing 13:53, run 38:08 for a total time of 1:46:42.







12th place Calvin Pepabano: swimming 13:44, cycling 24:02, portage 8:13, canoeing 14:02, run 37:55 for a total time of 1:49:07.

13th place John Longchap: swimming 12:09, cycling 23:38, portage 8:11,

canoeing 14:15, run 43:12 for a total time of 1:52:22.

14th place Eric Cheezo: swimming 17:36, cycling 24:53, portage 8:48, canoeing 13:58, run 45:54 for a total time of 1:52:02.

15th place Bill Blackned: swimming 13:11, cycling 22:24, portage 9:04, canoeing 16:33, run 44:03 for a total time of 2:00:07.

16th place Thomas Stevens: swimming 14:00, cycling 23:20, portage 8:53, canoeing 14:33, run 50:00 for a total time of 2:04:43.

17th place Calvin House: swimming 19:23, cycling 28:35, portage 9:17, canoeing 15:59, run 46:28 for a total time of 2:17:34

### Final Results- Women's Competitive

1st place Shirley Longchap: swimming **23:20**, cycling **37:09**, portage 4:25, canoeing 9:56, run **48:06** for a total time of 2:00:28.

2nd place Stephanie Mianscum: swimming 26:48, cycling 38:03, portage **3:28**, canoeing 8:05, run 57:02 for a total time of 2:14:14.

3rd place Annie Weistche: swimming 37:47, cycling 43:06, portage 7:17, canoeing 11:21, run 1:22:00 for a total time of 2:43:25.

### Final Results- Men's Recreational

1st place Kenny Gunner: swimming 19:02, cycling **36:24**, portage 6:38, canoeing 14:06, run 45:09 for a total time of 2:01:18.

2nd place Louis Mianscum: swimming 21:10, cycling 38:12, portage 6:57, canoeing 15:54, run **40:32** for a total time of 2:04:01.

3rd place Jimmy Coonishish: swimming 23:58, cycling 40:25, portage 8:09, canoeing 15:56, run 47:07 for a total time of 2:17:21.

4th place Stanley Neeposh: swimming 20:34, cycling 42:05, portage 9:04, canoeing 18:36, run 1:04:09 for a total time of 2:34:28.

5th place Redfern Cheezo: swimming 21:26, cycling 40:23, portage 8:38, canoeing 17:07, run 1:37:02 for a total time of 3:04:36.





# First Nations reject new government round-de-lay, designed

When I first began writing about Aboriginal people in Canada in 1968, the federal government had just concluded one of its periodic "consultations" with "the Indians" that had taken them two years, and had resulted in the publication of 25 or 30 big red books. In these books were printed, presumably, all the ideas put forward by the Aboriginals during these "consultations", and all the complaints they had made about their current situation.

I asked to see these books, and an official in Indian Affairs eventually handed me all of them. He told me later he never expected to hear from me again. But I read them, every word, and wrote a long article about them that occupied a full page of *The Montreal Star*. The books contained a bitter catalogue of the grievances of Aboriginal people about the way they were being treated.

About six months later, the feds published their White Paper proposals, which would, essentially, have abolished Indian status, cancelled the federal responsibility for "Indians and lands reserved for Indians", shucked off the federal trust for Indian lands, and made Indians the responsibility, like all other Canadians, of the provinces.

Nowhere in the 25 or 30 books recording the "consultations" with "the Indians", had any Indian suggested such policies!

This was what Indian Affairs meant by "consultation". And now they are at it again. Indian Affairs minister Robert Nault announced at the end of April that he would introduce legislation in the fall, come what may, that would transform the Indian Act. This — of course! — will be done only after a summer of "consultations" that he has launched under the fancy title of "Communities First: First Nations Governance". These consultations, he said, will include every Aboriginal person in Canada. It would be (just like the 1967 "consultation") a "grassroots" effort. And it will be carried out through "a Website, an 800 number call centre, and an intensive advertising campaign" which will reach every aboriginal person in Canada regardless of where they live, including native youth, women and elders. As well, he said, departmental officials would consult with all the traditional leadership groups like the Assembly of First Nations, provincial political-tribal organizations, band chiefs, and off-reserve native agencies.

"People are very interested in the day-to-day affairs of their community and how we can improve it, so we can get on with developing a relationship using the Indian Act that makes some sense and stop using the contribution agreement and audits as a way of developing a relationship," said Nault. "Everything dealing with governance contained in the Indian Act is now on the table."

This time, however, the Aboriginal leadership is better prepared than they were in the 1960s. BC's Interior Alliance Chief Arthur Manuel, whose main purpose in life is to defend and breath life into Aboriginal title, quickly remarked that this was a 2001 version of the 1969 White Paper.

The proposed federal legislative package includes the First Nations Governance Act, the First Nations Financial Institutions Act, and the so-called Independent Claims Commission Act, and was "an attempt to modernize Indian Nations out of existence", Manuel said. With the support of the Interior Alliance, he characterized Nault's proposals in this way:

They are an attempt to

- \* Extinguish Aboriginal title and rights to traditional territories (now called acquiring "certainty" over the land).

- \* Eliminate Indian Reserves by converting them into "Fee Simple" lands.

- \* Eliminate Indian tax immunity (to force the paying of property, income, sales taxes and user fees by Indians on Indian lands).

- \* Impose federal and provincial laws over Indians.

The Interior Alliance said the proposed legislative package would accelerate the extinguishment process, and was "a gross violation of Indigenous peoples' inherent right to self-determination" and added that the Canadian constitution already "recognizes and affirms" Aboriginal rights, including the pre-existing, inherent right to self-government.

"As Indian Affairs Minister in the first Trudeau government," Chief Manuel said, "Jean Chrétien built his career on trying to turn Indian Nations into municipalities and Chiefs into small town mayors. At the twilight of his career he now seems ready to legislate his outdated, assimilationist views on our people."

Chief Manuel added: the current government offensive also includes "the same type of sham consultations that Jean Chrétien used as Indian Affairs Minister in 1969. Only now the Department is more seasoned at this game."

But Chief Manuel was far from alone in rejecting the government's approach.

The Mi'kmaq, Maliseet & Passamaquoddy Chiefs quickly denounced Nault's proposal as "a unilateral federally-driven process" that will yield mandatory legislation, and does not address their peoples' governance aspirations.

The Union of BC Indian Chiefs, noting that they have "never ceded or surrendered our Aboriginal Title and Rights and have the inherent right of Self-Determination", declared that Nault's proposals would have the following unacceptable effects:

- Transfer Canada's fiduciary duties towards indigenous peoples in the areas of reserve lands, money, and membership into the hands, and onto the shoulders of Band Councils.

- Undermine the nation-to-nation relationship between Canada and indigenous peoples.

- Transfer more control, and therefore, legal liability, for small parcels of reserve lands to band governments.

- Increase our accountability to the federal government while reducing the federal government's own liabilities, fiduciary obligations and responsibilities to our peoples.

- Put band councils in the position of administering our own poverty.

- Alter the current voting regimes for band governments, perhaps to the point of incorporating a say for non-members who live on reserve.

- And convert bands into "corporations" with powers similar to local municipalities.

"IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the UBCIC Chiefs Council rejects the White Paper 2001 and calls upon all indigenous peoples and nations to join with us and compel Canada to recognize our inherent right of self-determination, and Aboriginal title (recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada in *Delgamuukw*), rather than tinkering with the Indian Act."

## A rapid rejection

So within 10 days, Aboriginal leaders across the country raised themselves against Nault's proposals, expressed their distrust of the government's motives, and finally, declared their determination not to have anything to do with the so-called "consultation process". To sum it all up, the Confederacy of Chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations, meeting in British Columbia, passed Resolution 15/01 rejecting Nault's proposal, and calling for a better process that focuses on building effective and efficient First Nations' governments.



# to strip them of their rights

By Boyce Richardson

AFN National Chief Matthew Coon Come said the proposed 'Governance Act' is limited in scope and has nothing to do with real governance. It is about tinkering with existing policies to make First Nations more accountable to government, and the government less accountable to First Nations. "Our vision of governance is based on the nation-to-nation relationship expressed in section 35 of Canada's own Constitution Act."

The Chiefs' motion states "that we reject the process the Minister is currently pursuing and instead declare that we, as First Nations, will draw up our own laws based on traditional customs and practices at the local community, regional and national levels".

The National Chief noted that First Nations do want change, but the Minister's proposed process is seriously flawed. "Change must be the result of a joint process and effort, not a unilateral action by the Minister. We want to throw off the burden of the colonial Indian Act and move into a nation-to-nation relationship with Canada," said Chief Coon Come. "This resolution gives the national chief and the executive a mandate to work with First Nations to develop a better process that will include all our citizens in re-building our nations and addressing our priorities. This need not be a long drawn-out process, as we can build on existing work like the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples." (Of course, the monumental work of RCAP has been virtually ignored by the government).

First Nations leaders also expressed concerns that the Minister developed his proposal without any input from First Nations, is not providing nearly enough time for full consultations, and will not provide any mechanism for First Nations citizens to approve or reject the outcomes. The Minister has stated that any new legislation will be mandatory and will be imposed on First Nations.

"Is the government going back on its commitment to work in partnership with First Nations as stated in its own Gathering Strength policy?" asked Chief Coon Come. "The Minister's unilateral, imposed approach reflects the same attitude that created the Indian Act in the first place. A flawed process will only result in flawed outcomes. It will be resisted by First Nations and will be an irresponsible use of public funds."

The next move came from the Atlantic Policy Congress Chiefs who applauded the AFN call to boycott the proposed consultations. The Atlantic Chiefs called for a better process that focuses on building effective and efficient First Nations governments, a process coming from the nations and not solely from the Minister of Indian Affairs. "The Prime Minister's throne speech said that the government of Canada would not unilaterally force anything onto the Aboriginal nations in Canada, but it seems minister Robert Nault wants to unilaterally impose a process on our people," said APC co-chair Chief Lawrence Paul. "The show of unity across the country on this issue makes me feel very proud as a leader and a Mi'kmaq," said Chief Peter Barlow. Chief Manuel, in the course of all this, provided an illuminating catalogue of what one might call "Indian Affairs-speak", the curious habit of the government bureaucrats in renaming with innocuous-sounding words, ancient processes that in some cases go back to the founding of the department.

He said that in the mid-1980's the department employed a SWAT (Special Words and Tactics) strategy to "control the dialogue" on aboriginal issues with the media and the general public. Now, he said, they are adding Aboriginal "grassroots people" as a target group. The federal practice has been to co-opt indigenous peoples, concepts and meanings into the federal and/or provincial policy framework in order to trick them into thinking the government is looking out for their best interests,

when often nothing could be further from the truth.

In the departmental lexicon he named:

\* "Inherent right to self-government" really means "delegated federal and/or provincial authority".

\* "Independent Claims Commission" really means federally controlled claims commission.

\* "Certainty" really means extinguishment or conversion of constitutionally protected section 35 Aboriginal title and rights.

\* "Own Source Revenues" really means taxation.

"We know that since their return to government in 1993, Chretien and his Ministers have been looking at the demographic growth of indigenous peoples in Canada and have been scheming to off-load their constitutional obligations and responsibilities onto the provinces and onto our own peoples at the local level through taxation." He said Chretien broke his 1993 Red Book promises to First Nations; has ignored the bulk of the RCAP final report and recommendations; in eight years, unlike Pierre Trudeau, Chretien has never met with the Chiefs in Assembly; he has never apologized for the treatment of Aboriginal peoples by the Crown; and he prefers to manipulate the agenda by hiding behind his successive Ministers of Indian Affairs.

Since Chretien's return to government, Chiefs and councils are being increasingly forced to "administer our own poverty" because the federal government has been incrementally cutting us loose financially by "capping or eliminating programs altogether."

"It is clear to us that the new and modern relationship with Aboriginal peoples that Chretien, and (Nault) talk about, means the termination of our Aboriginal title and rights. Many of us wouldn't go into the self-government, or land claims, negotiation processes the Chretien government set up, and now Chretien views us as unfinished business. We oppose Chretien's blueprint for legislative change because we know where it leads and we will inform our peoples of his plans to use and deceive them, and we will support our peoples in the fight for their freedom and self-determination by taking direct action."

The appearance of the expression "termination policy" in Manuel's analysis recalls that "termination" of federal responsibility for Indians has been tried persistently in both Canada and the United States. It was this policy that led to what writer Alvin Josephy, jr in the 1960s described as "termination psychosis", which meant that the moment anything faintly resembling termination of Indian status was suggested, the Indians across the Continent rose as a body to oppose it.

In 1969, the Alberta Indian Association, under Harold Cardinal's leadership, became the spearhead for the opposition to the White Paper, producing a book called *Indians Plus*, which they took to Prime Minister Trudeau in Ottawa. This initiative resulted in withdrawal of the White Paper, although most Aboriginal leaders believe the government, while rejecting it, nevertheless began to implement it by stealth.

It will be interesting to see if the current Aboriginal leaders, so much better prepared than in 1969, can force withdrawal of Nault's Governance initiative, or whether the government, now with the backing of many right-wing, anti-Indian intellectuals, and the anti-Indian postures of the Alliance party, (not to mention the anti-Indian positions of the BC Liberals, soon to be elected to office) will insist on forcing through the changes in the teeth of Aboriginal opposition. That would surely be the path to a major disaster.

Boyce Richardson's website may be found at :  
<http://www.magma.ca/~brich/>







# Inter-Tribal Youth Center 1st Anniversary

by Brian Brousseau

It's been a difficult year but the one-year celebration said it all. You could feel that the youth knew they have survived and will continue to be a vibrant part of the Montreal urban Native community. The events began a bit late because there were a few important people missing. But once it got started, it was uphill the whole way. The people were very interesting and the evening unraveled beautifully. Darlene Wapachee gave the opening speech. Then the celebration of Youth Center started. It was a great time for everyone there. The people who started the Youth Center a few years back were there to give their own speech on how they thought the Youth Center has evolved. Darlene Wapachee, the center's tribal youth coordinator spoke on behalf of the staff when she said how proud she was for making it this far.

The Center has suffered quite a bit during this past year. The Center was almost forced to close down because of financial problems but they never gave up hope and got back up on their feet stronger than ever with bigger dreams and aspirations. After Darlene's speech, awards were given out to the people who the center's animators thought were good workers and strong believers in the youth center and who were good role models for the youth that showed up regularly. The awards were given to the volunteers of the center for their outstanding achievements and good-natured spirit towards the Youth Center. Donovan Brass, Martin Dube, Nick Gianino, Bonnie Jerome, and Chris Kuhn were the proud recipients of the awards.

Just before supper, which was excellent Indian Tacos, Devan Skerret sang a song in Cree about joy, love and strength. It was very good and I'm sure it touched all of our hearts. The staff made the Indian tacos but unfortunately the night was such a success that there were not enough tacos for everyone. Pizza had to be ordered to replace the missing tacos, which was not



so bad either. I was one of the lucky ones to have pizza.

While we waited for the surprise dessert to arrive, Danick Duchesne sang songs in Montagnais. He explained what all the songs meant. There were too many to mention here. He played his own instrument (the guitar) and sang with a very nice voice.

Not long after supper, the inter-tribal youth mural was presented to the audience. It was a beautiful mural painted by the youth of the Native Friendship Center. A great deal of hard work went into completing it.

They presented a short film on their trip to New Mexico. It lasted a few minutes. But on August 13<sup>th</sup>, a longer version will be put together for the viewers who want to know more about what they did on their wonderful trip to New Mexico. They urge you to come in great numbers. Hope to see you there.

Afterwards, the evening was just about finished except for a dance that was organized by Gene's Music from Kahnawake. They set up their karaoke machine and waited for people to show up and sing. Unfortunately, the room was filled with shy people except for one woman who must have gone up about five times all by herself. That was too bad for everyone else because there were prizes given out to the winners and since she was the only one who went up, she won the prizes.

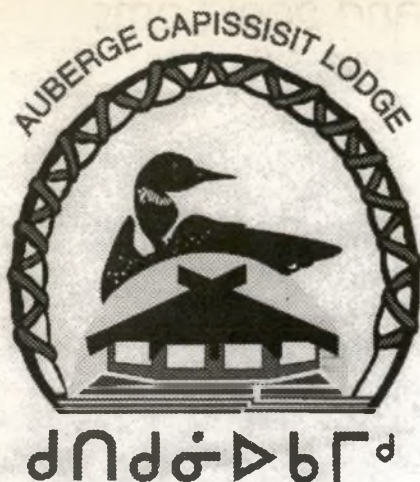
The Friendship Center would like to thank Shauna Sutherland, the activities coordinator, for her exceptional work and dedication she's given to help get the youth center started and running. She was there through tough times and good times. But unfortunately, she will be leaving the Friendship Center to go back to her native homeland, British-Columbia. The Center will miss you Shauna.

The youth animators were also recognized for all the hard work they've put into the Youth Center. A big thanks goes out to all of them. Orania Gros-Louis, the youth councilor was also appreciated and recognized by the Center but she couldn't be there the night of the celebration.

"Throughout the year we did incredible things and we still have funding for this year as well. We are looking forward to this year." Darlene Wapachee said. All who participated in the event wanted to thank Tracey Wysote for her time and effort to make the evening a great success.







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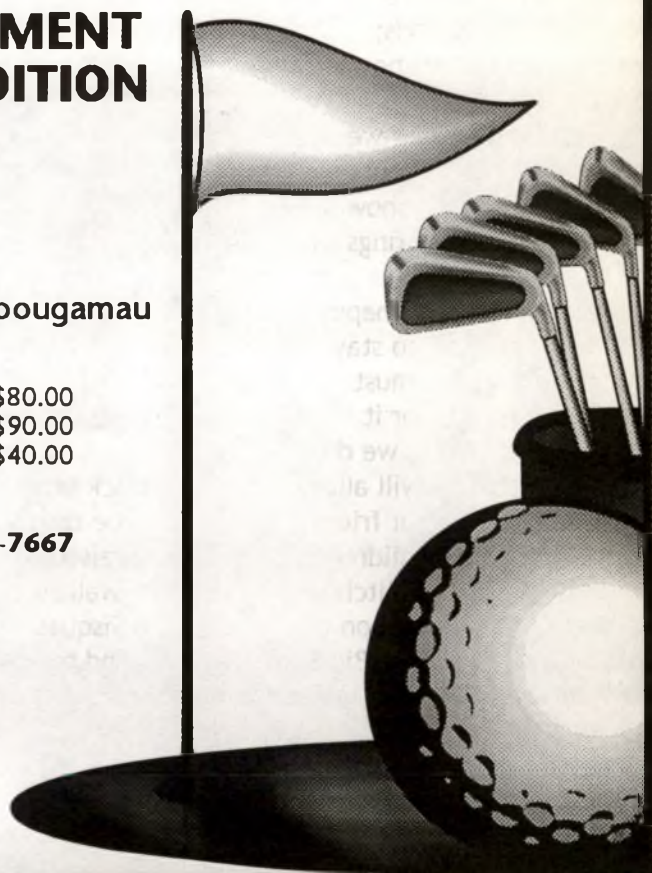
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# Dear brothers and sisters, jumshums and gookooms from the Cree Nation, Eeyou Istchee,

We write this today, as we leave Eeyou Istchee. We first came to Chisasibi in July 1991. I proposed marriage to my wife that Summer, at Fort George Island. There are many strong emotions going through our hearts. We feel the sadness of leaving behind so much warmth and friendship, so much laughter and good humour. We are sad because we are leaving behind the safety and comfort of our home, Chisasibi. At the same time, we feel some excitement. The excitement of discovering a new land, of learning new things, of being close to Tineke's family.

Two days ago, while I was packing in my office and Tineke was packing at home, we spoke over the telephone. She told me that she was determined to come back to Chisasibi. It was a beautiful day; the children were safely playing outside, and were going to have supper with our friends; where else would we be happier?

But we both know that we do not always decide our path in life. God will show us the way. If our path brings us back to stay in Eeyou Istchee, we will all be happy. If our path brings us to stay somewhere else, He must have a good reason for it. Whatever God wants, we do

pray to Him that he will allow us to come back often to Chisasibi, to see our friends, to spend some time in the land where our children were born and raised. To have Sikobahn at the Mitchuaps where they walked out. To gently be kissed on the cheeks by a Sisquash. To dance again with the Big River Dancers. And to renew our wedding vows under the Northern Lights of Fort George.

We pray to God that our children will continue to be able to go to the bush. We hope that one spring their children may also have a chance to walk out and be welcomed by Mother Earth. We pray that the land of

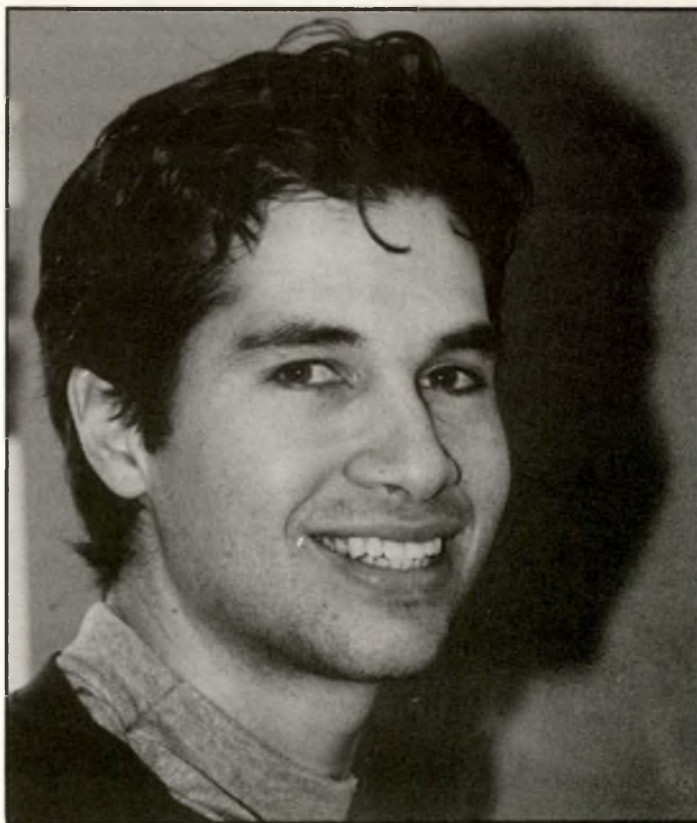
the Eeyou will still be there, healthy for our children and grandchildren.

We want to thank with all our hearts the people of Chisasibi who gave us a farewell that will forever be in our emotions. They are memories that forever will bring tears of joy to our family. July 5, 2001 was like our wedding at the Chisasibi arena, at Job's Memorial Gardens. Who knows? Maybe some day we will be at the same place for another wedding, that of one of our children and one of your children! There are some

pretty cute boys and girls out there, and we would make good in-laws. Too bad that we cannot arrange marriages like in the good old days!

We hope to support the Cree Nation in becoming an autonomous, self-governing nation, in control of all its natural resources. This is the key to a healthy nation.

We say "see you later" and not "good-bye". We received so much from you; we grew up with you. Please accept our invitation to come to Holland. It is a beautiful country, and we will be very pleased to give back a bit of the hospitality we received.



Your little brothers and sisters,

Robert, Tineke, Esmeralda Seekoon Neebish, Emilio, Roberto Badabaneshkum  
Harris-Mostert  
Chisasibi, July 26, 2001

Merellaan 77  
3135 KR Vlaardingen  
The Netherlands  
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rharrisgirardo@hotmail.com







*ee youth*  
Brian Brousseau

The first Gathering of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador's (AFNQL) youth will be held in August of 2001. Between three hundred fifty and five hundred young delegates and observers from all of our communities, from Quebec Native Women and from urban centers will get together to share their projects, their hopes and their dreams. This initiative is the result of a decision made by representatives from the communities and organizations at the Second AFNQL Youth Forum, held on last March 17<sup>th</sup>.

The representatives have decided to hold this first Gathering on the Cree land of Waswanipi rather than in a city. I know this proves their attachment to the land, and to all it represents for us and for our cultures.

There are times when we can feel that very important things are happening for the future of our people and we must take part in it.

These young representatives, men and women, will realize the responsibility of being your delegates, of being the messengers of your expectations, your hopes, or your despairs... I know that they will do it with all the respect and the quality of being a good listener that are part of our culture and of our traditions.

The delegates that you will choose will need your full support and the support of our leaders in order to successfully carry out their mission to their fullest capacity.

"We first had a meeting last February when the Summit in Quebec city occurred. The Quebec government already had an agenda planned out for us and the youth of the First Nations didn't have a very clear voice in it. It was very insensitive to the youth. This time we know more will come out of it because we had a say in preparing the agenda and we will have a loud and clear voice at the meeting itself. There are a lot of people who will help to make this meeting as successful as possible." Ashley Iserhoff said (Youth Grand Chief)

During the first Youth gathering in December of last year, certain decisions were taken about the future AFNQL youth gathering.

Here are the decisions that were taken:

-The first great Gathering of the AFNQL's Youth will be held on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2001.



-The Gathering and the Forum applies to boys and girls between 15 and 30 years old.

-The Gathering will be held in a community.

-The choice of the community will be made through an application tender.

-Community delegations, and those from the six Quebec Friendship Centers, will be formed of one boy and one girl chosen by their community or their Friendship Center. — As for the Quebec Native Women Association, the delegation will be 2 young representatives. Financial aid for traveling and accommodation for these two official delegates will be covered by the AFNQL.

Each organization, association and community may, at its own expense, send to the Gathering a maximum of eight observers to accompany its official delegates.

Orania Gros-Louis drew the logo of the AFNQL. It signifies many things.

For starters, the north feather represents the Eagle that represents North America. The south feather represents the Condor that represents South America. The ten tears reflect the ten Nations of Quebec and Labrador flowing from the heart of the Eagle and the Condor.

The medicine wheel signifies the four directions and the equilibrium we need to achieve: spiritually, physically, emotionally and mentally. These four worlds united ensure a sense of well being for all individuals.

The Circle unites all the elements to create a union, uniformity, emphasizing that everyone is equal in this Circle of life.

In completion surrounding the unity are the Sun and the Moon, the gifts from the Creator.

The logo represents the Prophecy that today's First Nations Youth of Quebec and Labrador are united.

Lets hope that the first great youth gathering will be a success for all of us.



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## PUBLIC NOTICE

August 1, 2001

George Gunner  
Assistant Police Director  
819-978-3655/0320



## WEMINDJI POLICE HIT THE BOOTLEGGERS

On July 27th, 2001, the Wemindji Police Force, acting on information conducted a road block. To their delight, the Police seized more than 35 cases of beer and more than 29 bottles of hard liquor.

According to information received by the Police, this large quantity of alcohol was to be sold by the bootleggers that same weekend which coincided with a wedding.

More than ten(10) persons are believed to be involved in this bootlegging ring, which consists of transporting, being in possession of selling. The age of the perpetrators ranges from 19 to 42 years of age. The investigation is ongoing and charges will eventually be laid under the Wemindji By-law. The street value of the confiscated alcohol is estimated at \$7,000.00

Statistics compiled by the Wemindji Police Force clearly indicate that 90% of all crimes in the community are alcohol related. This explains why the Police have to remain diligent and keep an eye on all potential bootlegger, whether they make their purchase in Radisson, Matagami, Amos, Val d'Or or elsewhere.

The Wemindji Police Force wants to emphasize this desire to work in participation with community members and encourages them to come forward with any information pertaining to bootleggers. Such information will be treated with strict confidentiality.

With the help of community members, we can all make Wemindji a safer and better place to live. Feel free to call us at 819-978-0320 or 819-978-3655.



# Best of James Bay Survey

Back by Popular Demand

## Individual Awards

Best Community Contribution  
(Man) \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Community Contribution  
(Woman) \_\_\_\_\_  
Most Outstanding Elder \_\_\_\_\_  
Most Outstanding Youth \_\_\_\_\_  
Most Outstanding Tallyman \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Hunter \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Fisher \_\_\_\_\_  
Fastest Goose Plucker \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Story-teller \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Politician \_\_\_\_\_  
Most Disliked Politician \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Band Council \_\_\_\_\_  
Worst Band Council \_\_\_\_\_  
Cree most likely to Change the system \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Athlete \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Cook \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Musician \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Artist \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Cultural Contribution \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Cree Media (person or organization) \_\_\_\_\_  
Funniest Cree \_\_\_\_\_  
Smartest Cree \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Pool Player \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Gossiper \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Checkers/Chess Player \_\_\_\_\_  
Best UFO Sighting Spot \_\_\_\_\_

## Consumer Awards

### BEST AUTO DEALER

Hardy Ringuette ☐ Aubé ☐ Gareau ☐  
Barraulte ☐  
Automobile Chibougamau ☐ Veillette & Johnson ☐  
Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

### BEST SNOWMOBILE DEALER

Ou J'ai des Sports ☐ Indoho ☐  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### BEST RESTAURANT

Del's Restaurant ☐ Brien's ☐ Bar-B Barn ☐ Jacob's ☐  
Kanio-Kashee Lodge ☐ Waswanipi Cafeteria ☐  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### WORST RESTAURANT

Kilometre 381 ☐ Moulin Rouge (Chiboug.) ☐  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Hamburger

McDonald's Big Mac ☐ Jacob's ☐ Waswanipi Caf. ☐  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Pizza

Mike's ☐ Pizza Hut ☐ Chisasibi Mitchuap Rest. ☐  
Waswanipi Caf. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Bar/Club

Winnie's ☐ Château Louis ☐ Château Inn ☐  
Boréal ☐  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Grocery Store

Meechum ☐ Chisasibi Co-Op ☐ Oudaa Store ☐  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Rowdiest Bar

Château Louis ☐ Mont Bar ☐  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Hotel

Sheraton Centre ☐ Journey's End ☐ Eskers ☐  
Confortel ☐ Escalé ☐  
Kanio-Kashee Lodge ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Hunting Supplies

Sport Expert (Rouyn) ☐ Ferplus ☐ Le Baron ☐  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_



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### Best Fishing Supplies

Sport Expert (Rouyn) ☐ Western ☐ Le Baron ☐  
Ferplus ☐ Other : \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Sports Supplies

Podium ☐ Sports Express ☐ Sport Expert (Rouyn) ☐  
Other : \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Bridal Shop

Jaymore's ☐ St. Hubert St. Plaza ☐  
Other : \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Flower Shop

Helene Fleuriste ☐ Diane Fleuriste ☐ Serlivard ☐  
Other : \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Jewellery Shop

Bijouterie Riche Or ☐ Bijouterie Baribeau ☐ Bijouterie  
Val D'Or Enrg. ☐ Other : \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Children's Clothing

Petit Lutin ☐ Géant des Aubaines ☐ The Gap for  
Kids ☐ Au coin des petits ☐ Other : \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Toy Store

Toys'R'Us ☐ Dollarama ☐  
Other : \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Furniture Shop

Meubles Marchand ☐ Meubles Selections ☐  
Ameublement Jeanne Inc. ☐  
Branchaud ☐ Other : \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Music Shop

HMV ☐ Musicon ☐ Polyson ☐ Mag Music ☐ Sam  
the Record Man ☐  
Christian Book Store ☐ Other : \_\_\_\_\_

### Coolest Clothing Store

Le Château ☐ Bo Jeans ☐ Sears catalogue ☐  
Stitches ☐ Northern ☐  
Other : \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Gift Shop

Wachiya ☐ Hallmark ☐ Michou ☐ Wal-Mart ☐  
Other : \_\_\_\_\_

### Favourite Airlines

Air Creebec ☐ Air Wemindji ☐  
Other : \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Overall Business

Air Creebec ☐ Cree Co. ☐ Kepa Transport ☐  
Cree Construction ☐  
Other : \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Town for Shopping

Chibougamau ☐ Timmins ☐ Val D'Or ☐  
Montreal ☐ Rouyn-Noranda ☐  
Amos ☐ Other : \_\_\_\_\_

### Best New Local Business

### OPINION SURVEY :

" If I were Minister of Indian Affairs (please continue) ...

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## ATTENTION TO ALL POW WOW DANCERS

The Nation and the Eastern Door are presently looking for  
Pow Wow Dancers for our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Traditional Pow Wow,  
on September 8 & 9, 2001, in the Old Port of Montreal.  
Any dancers interested in participating,  
please contact the Pow Wow Coordinator.  
The first forty (40) dancers registered will receive an honorarium.



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## 1st Annual Traditional Pow Wow

Montreal, Québec "The Nation" and "The Eastern Door", two aboriginal newspapers are proud to invite the general public to our 19th Annual Traditional Pow Wow, on September 8th & 9th, 2001. The Pow Wow will be held at the Bonsecours Island in the Old Port of Montreal. It will be held from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm Saturday, September 8th, and from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm Sunday, September 9th. The Pow Wow is a celebration for everyone to enjoy. It will feature dance, song, traditional fashions, family entertainment, arts, and food. There is also an arts and crafts market, children's activities, and demonstrating artists throughout the day. Visitors are strongly encouraged to participate in this peaceful and entertaining gathering. The Pow Wow provides an opportunity for local and tourist clientele to get to know Aboriginal nations through cultural and educational programming. Please join us in our grand event by celebrating traditions, pride and friendship.

Those interested in volunteering, dancing or performing, selling arts and crafts or food vending please contact Danielle at 514-272-3077 or e-mail us at [montrealpowwow@yahoo.com](mailto:montrealpowwow@yahoo.com).



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# UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

*Xavier Kataquapit*

## *Remembering My Mooshom*

One of the fondest memories I have of growing up in Attawapiskat is of my grandfather, James Kataquapit, who lived with our family for a few years when I was a young boy. We called him Mooshom, which is the Cree word for grandfather.

Before he came to our home, Mooshom lived alone for many years. His wife, Janie Kataquapit, passed away before I was born.

Mooshom eventually found it hard to live by himself and came to stay with our family for a few years. Although our house was filled with nine children, mom and dad cleared a room for Mooshom in our four bedroom house.

I was too young to really discover Mooshom's life but I remember him talking about the fact that he had gone to a great war across the ocean. As part of his remembrance he would sing, 'It's a long, long way to Tipperary'. My brothers and I always laughed with Mooshom after he sang and it wasn't until later when I went to school in the south that I learned about this English marching song from the First World War. Mooshom always enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, which included my brothers and sisters and numerous other cousins. He gave us kisses and hugs and made us laugh whenever we sat down with him.

I will always recall coming home from school during the summer when Mooshom was living with us. Dad kept a wooden bench, specially designed for our freighter canoe, alongside our driveway and this is where Mooshom would sit on a warm sunny day.

Mooshom always wore the same style of clothes, which consisted of a black pair of pants, a white shirt and a black suit jacket. In the sun he sat with a green hunters cap and he also had his cane to help him walk back to the house. As I walked up the driveway he would call me over and ask me to sit with him for a while in the sun before I went inside. I

was always only able to sit for a few short moments but before I got up to go he would ask for a kiss and hug. I wasn't the only one to meet Mooshom beside the driveway on those sunny days, my brothers and sisters also sat with him and got their kiss and hug before they came in.

Inside our home, Mooshom had his own table and ate his meals in his room. He always preferred wild meat and did not like the non-Native meals that mom prepared for us. He was a very traditional person who had spent most of his life out on the land hunting and gathering his own food. It was only in the later part of his life that he lived a non-traditional lifestyle. Mom accommodated his tastes and sometimes while we had spaghetti or shepherd's pie, she would prepare a little goose, moose or caribou for Mooshom. Everyday during supper, it was my chore to take Mooshom's meal to his room. Once his plate was on his table and his kiss had been given, I would go back to the kitchen to fetch his tea. Mooshom always loved his cup of tea during his meal. Mom knew how fond he was of his tea and she always served it in an oversized mug that held four regular cups.

When Mooshom moved in with us he was starting to feel his age and after a few years in our home his health deteriorated until he had to leave to be cared for at the local hospital. Even when he was in the hospital, the people he loved were not far away. Dad worked in the maintenance department of the hospital and was always around and mom sent us there just about every day to deliver a meal package of goose, moose or rabbit. Mooshom complained that he did not like the food they gave him in the hospital because they served no wild meat.

It feels good to remember Mooshom while he lived with us during that time. This was a precious time for me and although I did not know it then I carry these memories of Mooshom like a connection to where I come from. Mooshom will always be a part of me.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## 100 - Births

**Dear Lord,** God our Father has just granted us our 11th grandchild and nephew on March 28th, 2001 at 9:14pm in Chibougamau, QC. Congratulations to our daughter and sister Karen on the birth of her precious baby boy Curtis Meeyobin Deverick Bosum. Were here when you need us. With love, from us at 74 Opataca Meskino.

**I'd like to welcome** my new baby nephew Lylis Etapp Hester born in Val d'or on June 29, 2001. You are one cute chubby little baby and we love you lots. I'm sorry I had to leave while your mommy was in labor...I got scared....lol.....but I'm still very much excited for your future cousin to be born. Congratulations Angela and Floyd! Love you lots, From Rachel and Karl

**Happy 25th Birthday** to my dear friend Rachel Kawapit Sheshamush, who's birthday is on August 3rd, 2001. Also, Happy Anniversary to you and your husband Bruno Sheshamush on which will be August 13th, 2001 in Whapmagoostui. I hope you and Bruno will see many more happy years to come and may the Creator watch over your little family. Kiss the kids for me and I miss you all so very much. From Mary Niquanicappo from Montreal.

**I would like to wish** a Birthday Greeting to my friend Sanda Shecapio on July 16th. I'm pretty sure you still enjoyed your day in Chisasibi, even though you were suppose to come down to "Ojay". Anyways "Happy Birthday" I promise you that next time I come up to Chisasibi I'll bring Curtis with me. From: Karen B.

**I wanna wish my beautiful niece** Andre-Ann Etapp a Happy Birthday on the 27th of July. I hope you enjoyed your day spending it with us coz we sure did love having you around us. And don't ever forget that we love you so much! From: Karen and Curtis Bosum.

**A Best Friend** sees the best in you, accept you as you are and is always up for anything. She sees the bright side of a bad day, knows when you need someone, but understand when you want to be alone. She softens your worries and shares your pains. Not only is she a friend but a sister at heart. She is everything to me, my

best friend Theresa. Happy Belated Birthday on the 22nd of July. With love in friendship, Naomi (OJ).

**Nathan Shecapio!** Happy Belated Birthday! Miss ya. From me (PT).

**I would like to wish my daddy** Sheldon Gray, a happy belated birthday on July 6. Daddy, I want you to know that I love you very much and that no matter how old we get, we will always be best friends. Fr: Your son, **Brendon Shecapio Blacksmith XXX**

**I would like to wish** a Happy Birthday to my loving sister Carole Kitchen soon to be Gunner. Her birthday is on July 31st. Have fun sis and don't forget I will always love U. Thanks for everything. Love always, **Tammy Saganash.**

**I would like to wish my husband** Paul, a Happy 10th Anniversary on August 2, 2001. I love you with all of my heart. I thank the Creator for giving me you to be my husband. Not many people know the kind of person you are. You are a loving father to our three children. You are also a very caring person. You help those you know that are in need of help. Most of all you care about us "our family". We love you. Thank you so much for everything. I hope you'll enjoy your day. From Your wife in Whapmagoostui.

## 300 - Personals

**HELLO!** To these friends of mine in Mistissini: Jenellie Shecapio, Matilda Petawabano, Cynthia Longchap, Vanessa Longchap, Sheena Longchap, Priscilla Longchap and Miranda Coonishish. Hope to see y'all soon! Like I don't know when though? \*LOL\* Take care of yourselves! From: "Your friend" in Waswanipi (Pat).

**There are times in life** when we all need a lending hand, a shoulder to lean on and an ear to hear out thoughts and feelings. And at this time of your grief and sorrows, we lend our hands, our shoulders and our ears to you, Dorothy, sons, parents, brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces of late Frankie Shecapio. Just remember that no matter how tough things might get at this point in all of your lives that God will walk with you and will carry you. And that anytime you reach out your hands, he will be there to hold on to them tightly. Even though we may not understand as much as God can, we are here for you all with open

arms and hearts filled with love and sympathy. Fr: Winnie Mianscum, Children and Grandchildren (O-Jay)

**We wish to thank** the people of Waskaganish for making our visit from July 3rd to July 8th 2001 so enjoyable. We especially thank all those volunteers who were involved with the wedding of Louise Hester and Glen Wadden on July 6th, 2001, also at the great feast and the dance. Your kindness was greatly appreciated, God Blesss You All. From: **Margaret & Tom Wadden.**

**I would like to say hello** to Albert Mianscum (in Val D'Or). So how are you? I hope to see you soon. So take good care. From: someone who still cares about you in Waswanipi. Call me when you see this.

**I'll see you at the Powwow** September 8 & 9 in Montreal. Look for me, I'm the one having a lot of fun. I'll be eating all of your caribou and nisk. Ben Masty! xxxxxxxxxxxxxx - secret admirer

## 104 - Graduation

**Congratulations** to my old class mates Cindy Rupert and Grabby Masty in Whasp. who graduated from Heavy Equipment Mechanic. From Mary.

**Congratulations** to my sister Melissa Etapp on her grad day from Algonquin College. I knew you'd make it! And we are very proud. I wish you continued success when you go to Montreal. You are an intelligent girl and I know that you'll be the first University Grad in our family! I'll come back once I can! Take care sis, Rachel xoxoxo

**LUCIEN BABY**  
**DIRECTEUR DES VENTES**

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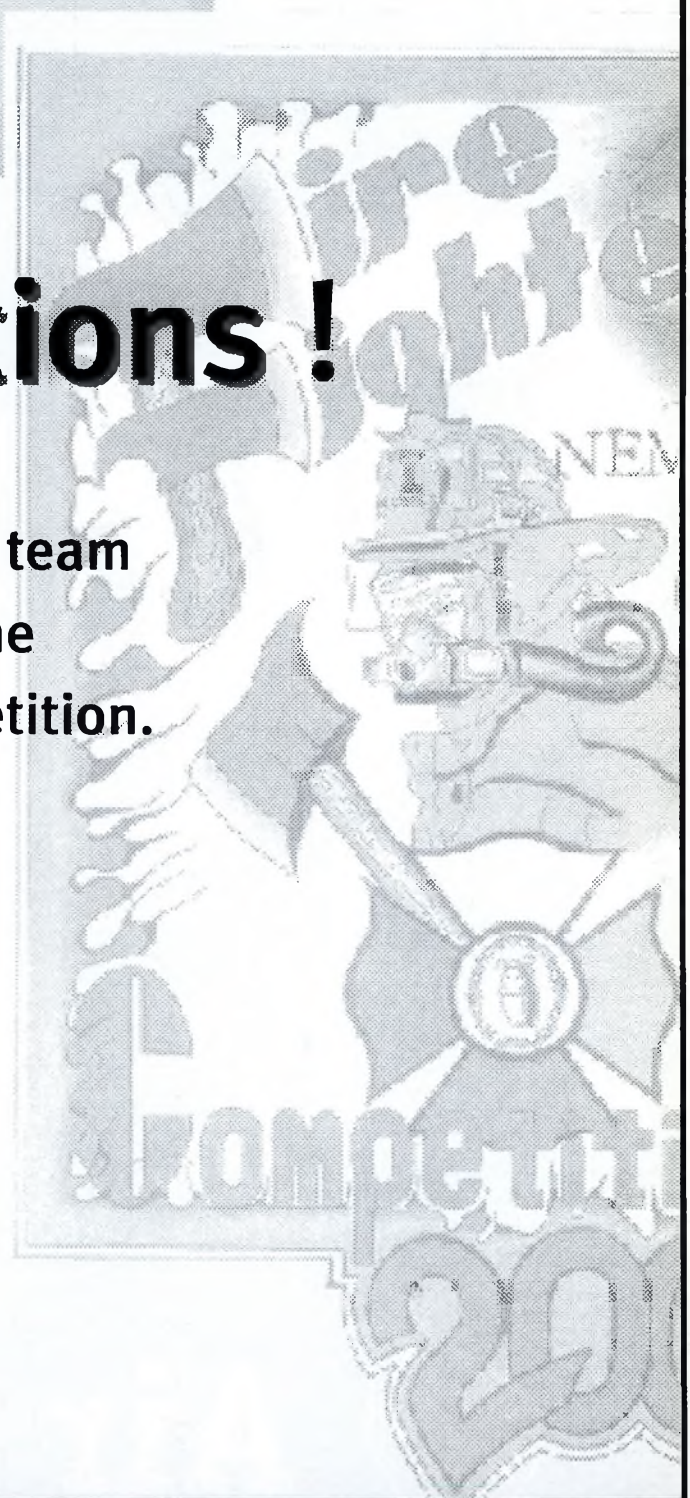
Victor Blackned

Marlin Blackned

Gregory Visitor

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